

Editorial

Assalaam A'laikum.

Welcome to a new year with meet.learn.acquire for 2012.

I bring you a new issue of this newsletter as a dual issue. We were unable to produce an issue for April due to a slight delay in the appointment of an Editor for the new term of MLA Council for 2012-2013.

The work of MLA has nonetheless continued at a great speed and we report the successful publishing of "Progress of library & information services sector of the Maldives", a book highlighting the progress of the MLA since the establishment of the association in 1987. Don't forget to buy a copy and read through our long history ©.

Additionally, another 10 libraries has been successfully automated using the Koha ILS. The Maldives Digital Library project was also formally launched on 12th July 2012. I take this opportunity to thank all the parties involved to make this a success.

In this issue, we bring you a library from Vilufushi called the Thandoru library, a library that has been providing library services for 48 years now. We also bring you news on library day celebration, the MLA general assembly and the new council members of MLA. Moreover, we also bring you the news of the legal deposit act of NLM, which was implemented on 21st February 2012.

For those of you who wish to trial using Koha ILS, we bring you a simple manual on how to install Koha.

I take this opportunity to thank all our readers, members, and contributors for the continued support in article contribution and for the encouraging feedback for the newsletter.

Please do let us know how we are doing by writing to us. You can leave a comment on our blog @ <http://infomalias.wordpress.com>

Enjoy reading!

Thank you.

Nash



Making strides forward

The Maldives Library Association has taken remarkable strides forward in its efforts to serve the Maldives' library and information services sector. This journey ahead has not been easy given challenges in securing necessary funds and shortage of professional information service workers. What we have been able to achieve though, is noteworthy.

The Maldives Digital Library that was launched in July 2012 has been one of the large scale works carried out by the Association. This project involves the creation of digital library collections of local content as well as introducing library software Koha ILS to Maldives libraries. At its formal launching on 12 July 2012, the MLA has successfully integrated 20 libraries throughout the Maldivian archipelago. This was made possible with very generous cooperation from the National Library of Maldives, Educational Development Centre, National Centre for Information Technology and the Nepzilla from Nepal. I take this opportunity to thank the entire team on behalf of the members of the Association. Check out the Maldives Digital Library at <http://library.egov.mv>

This year, we marked the 25th year of MLA. In this short span of time the MLA has continuously endeavored in its efforts, even with certain breaks now and then. The journey of the 25 years has been documented by a selected editorial team among MLA members. The book titled "Progress of Library & Information Services Sector of the Maldives Library Association" provides an overview of its journey.

A flip through the book also gives the readers an understanding of the diversity of work that encompasses the library and information services sector. It ranges from library education, building local, regional and international consortias, the link with the publishing industry, and the evolving nature of the sector to encompass both print and electronic media. Make sure you take a look at the book. Better yet, get a copy for yourself as it is part of our achievement.

Also of significance is what the MLA has been able to do to encourage the new and emerging professionals of this sector. The MLA proudly sponsored the **Diploma in Library and Information Services** students of the Maldives University in realizing their ambition of experiencing the LIS sector abroad. I take this opportunity to thank the students and their lecturer in taking the initiative to organize the tour and seeking funding. Special thanks to our former President Shaba for instilling the idea and encouraging the students to take the step. The MLA hopes to receive major contribution from these students in keeping the momentum created within MLA.

A new MLA Council has been elected in July 2012 and we welcome old as well as new faces to the running of the Association. I congratulate all on behalf of the members and hope that we will be able to continue to make strides forward.

I ask you to stay with us to build and expand this community. Become a member and help yourself as well as providing a helping hand to the development of the sector.

~ Aminath Riyaz, MLA President ~



Maldives Library Association
meet.learn.acquire

In this issue:

Editorial / Note from MLA President	P.1
Thandoru Library: profile	P.2
Library News	P.4
Professional Profile: Saud Najih	P.4
MLA Annual General Assembly 2012	P.5
MLA Council Election	P.5
Maldives Digital library launching	P.6
Manual on installing koha – part 1	P.6
ACLIS graduation	P.8
Legal Deposit Act	P.9
Bringing NLM Catalogue online	P.10
Study tour in Sri Lanka : DLIS	P.11
Book review	P.12
Update on MLA activities	P.12

موسىٰ بن جعفر بن محمد بن علي بن ابي طالب

[illegible]

د. خواجه محمد رفیع دوسو نومبر ۱۹۶۴ء کو "الموجہ"
تعمیرات کے بارے میں ایک مضمون لکھ کر شائع کیا۔

[illegible]

دَڤَاوَدَو دَڤَاوَدَو دَڤَاوَدَو دَڤَاوَدَو دَڤَاوَدَو
رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو رَسُو

[illegible]

خاړه مخ پر لږه اړخه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه
 اړخه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه
 خاړه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه
 اړخه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه
 خاړه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه
 اړخه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه
 خاړه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه
 اړخه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه مخ پر لږه

ارغی سرنی "موسیرتس قورایمکی" ای، بختی قورایمکی
 موسیرتس قورایمکی ارغی سرنی سونام قورایمکی
 ارغی سرنی قورایمکی ای، 1964
 ای ارغی سرنی قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی ای،
 قورایمکی ای ارغی سرنی سونام ای، قورایمکی
 سونام قورایمکی "ارغی سرنی" 1964
 ارغی سرنی ای، قورایمکی ای، ارغی سرنی
 ارغی سرنی سونام، ارغی سرنی
 ای، 1964 ارغی سرنی ارغی سرنی سونام
 "ارغی سرنی" ای، قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی
 قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی
 قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی
 قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی
 قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی ای، قورایمکی

خَوَارِزْمِيَّہٗ قَرِیْبَتِی زَحَر



The Act 01/2006 states that a specified amount of copies of all the local publications should be deposited at the National Library for archival purposes. The act also legally makes the NLM as the administrator for maintaining the Maldivian heritage. The purpose of this Act is to archive and maintain the Maldivian heritage for future generations.

The benefits of this Act could be seen in the long run, with the ability to search the local publications via the NLM catalog and via archival of records of the local publications in the national bibliography of the NLM. Additionally, the people who are going to benefit due to this act will no other than the creators, publishers and authors of Maldivian local publications.

This Act was formally implemented in an event organized at the Art Gallery on 21st February 2012.

[illegible]

172 قمر
 31 بر
 قمر

قورقورداي چوڭ قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي
 قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي
 قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي
 قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي قورقورداي

[illegible]

Library Day 2012 @ MNUL

Library day celebrated national wide during the week of July 12 was marked on the same day at the National University Library of Maldives. Special activities were conducted at the library for the user community. The most significant of these was free giveaways of books.

All the visitors to the library were given goodie bags.

A special staff event on the occasion was also held in the evening, for the library staff team including student assistants.



Library Day 2012 @ NLM

The National Library marked its 67th Anniversary along with the nation-wide library day activities.

The event for the day included the launching of the Maldives Digital Library, A joint donation of books by MLA & NLM to the newly built public library in Fuahmulaku, the opening up of a Capital Market Development Authority (CMDA) corner at the NLM, the launching of the MLA book on *the Progress of the Library Sector of the Maldives*.



Saud Naajih Adam is among the few librarians working in the Maldives with a LIS qualification. Saud holds a BA in Librarianship and Cooperate Information Management from the Curtin University, Australia and joined the Maldives library sector recently in the capacity of Librarian at the National University. In the short period of his professional work, Saud has demonstrated dedication to a profession that is very much stereotyped to be a female dominated one in the Maldives.

Saud envisages the importance of the creating awareness at national level to popularize the image of libraries and librarians being vital organisms in the continuum of information life cycle.

When asked if he always aspired to be a librarian, he says:

"To be honest, like most Maldivians, before I studied in the field of Library Science, I did not even know what librarians do in libraries (apart from a broad generalisation). I cannot say I always envisioned myself in the field of libraries (especially working in an office, considering my previous line of work!)."

He further says that his experience working in the hectic and volatile environment of his earlier workplace, he was ready to undergo studies in a field that would give him a broad understanding in a multitude of disciplines.

"Before the announcement of the scholarship from MCHE (now MNU), I was already quite interested in information systems and designing. The definite moment I chose to study library sciences as my career profession is difficult to pin point, but I was fairly eager to learn more about libraries and archives after watching "Indiana Jones" movie franchise! The announcement of the scholarship result (for ILS) was a

PROFILE: Maldives LIS Professionals

Saud Najih is the Librarian at the Maldives National University Library

definite defining moment as I was already nominated for another scholarship to study ACCA (accounting and finance) in Singapore during that time".

Saud highlights the scholarship opportunity through the Maldives National University in 2007, with gratitude.

In terms of future career development, he aspires to engage in teaching library related programs at the Maldives National University. He believes the development of the profession lies in educating more people in this field. Accordingly, he incorporated teaching units in his studies at Curtin University.

Talking about the challenges, he highlights the difficulty or struggle in embracing library science as a profession given the social stereotyping or social attribution of librarian as a gender specific profession.

"One of the challenges I first encountered was that everyone from Maldives is quite surprised that a guy is working in the field of libraries and studied library sciences as a profession. I had a lot of trouble addressing this stigma associated with guys working in libraries. *However the astonishing thing I discovered was that in Australia, in some libraries and recordkeeping institutions, women were fewer than men. In fact, most of my classmates from University turned out to be guys and they seem quite motivated to be studying library science.*"

He envisages a challenging time ahead in this chosen career. As he quite rightly highlights, in Maldives there exists a lack of understanding and significance towards information value and usage. "Most people believe that being able to Google, and use Facebook equivalents to being net savvy and proficient information users."

He hopes to make a significant contribution in bringing a positive change to this aspect through his active involvement in imparting information literacy.

He believes the first step in making the Maldives University Library to become a proper information platform enabling remote access to knowledge throughout the Maldives.

"I also envision that everyone in Maldives becomes a library user and finally realising the huge asset that has been forgotten. Let me emphasise here that the simple nomads and Bedouins of the Arabian Peninsula became one of the beacons for light and guidance not due to their tools and trade or their weapons and fierceness, but due to their great dedication towards learning, assimilating, and dissemination of knowledge i.e. the holy Quran. It is a religious duty of Muslims to gather useful information that benefit us (during this life and the hereafter) and share this knowledge with the rest of mankind."

Saud further adds that the key to success for future library and information services professionals is to have a clear vision of who you are where you are going by choosing to become a librarian. He asks wanna be librarians to ask the following questions and to be guided by the advice.

"Are you doing this because you love the profession? For financial reasons? Due to the ad you saw? Whichever you're reason has made you choose this career, my advice is if you chose to be who you are, and where you are, be sincere towards your choices as the development of this profession depends on your tireless effort and rightful deeds." ■

~ Profiled by Aminath Riyaz ~

MLA Council Election

The new MLA Council was elected as stipulated in the MLA Constitution, by popular vote by the members present at the meeting. The new composition of the MLA Council is as follows for a two year term.

President:

Aminath Riyaz (The Maldives National University Library)

Vice President:

Fathimath Nashath (National Library of Maldives)

Adviser:

Aishath Shabana (The Maldives National University Library)

Secretary:

Aminath Shazina (The Academy for Dhivehi Language)

Assistant Secretary:

Fathimath Visala (The Maldives National University Library)

Treasurer:

Shafeea Shakir (National Library of Maldives)

Editor:

Fathimath Nashfa (The Maldives National University Library)

Training Officer

Athiyya Shakeel (The Maldives National University Library)

Public Relations Officer:

Aminath Shiuna (The Maldives National University Library)

General Council member (other member1):

Riyaza Mohamed (Islamic Library, Ministry of Islamic Affairs)

General Council member (other member2):

Samiya Mohamed (National Library of Maldives)

MLA Annual General Assembly 2012

Annual General meeting for 2012 was held on May 26, 2011. The main agenda items for the meeting include the sharing of the 2011 annual report, finalisation of the activity calendar for 2012, and the election of MLA Council for the new term commencing in 2012. The term of office for the previous Council term came to a close in January 2011.

The meeting was held at the "American Center" at the National Library, from 8:00pm to 9:30pm. A general advertisement for the meeting was placed in Haveeru Daily and the MLA administration called over 50 members on the contact list to inform about the meeting. The meeting was attended by 16 members.

The following is a brief summary from the annual report 2011:

- Basic course certificate awarding ceremony for the course held in September 2010 was held on 19 February 2011.
- The first annual general meeting for the year was held on 19 February 2011 where members for the vacant post of the MLA Council were also held.
- MLA initiated a country-wide library automation project in February 2011.
- The MLA for the first time opened a bank account at a commercial Bank, on 23 August 2011. Earlier the funds were managed through the National Library with an account at the Ministry of Finance. However, this had been dysfunctional for over 4 years owing to various reasons.
- MLA Council member Athiyya Shakeel visited three libraries in H.Dh Atoll to check the status of the libraries and to identify areas of MLA cooperation.
- Workshop on Library Classification held on May 14, 2011.
- MLA organized a "bring a friend" social event for MLA members on 28 July 2011.
- MLA partnered in a country-wide digital library project with the National Library. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the National Library on 22 August 2011. This project was later joined by the Educational Development Centre with also support from the National Centre for Information Technology.
- Training on Koha ILS held from 11-13 September 2011, with 25 participants.
- Training on Greenstone Digital Library software held from 14 to 15 September 2011.
- Consultancy service to the Islamic Library from 18 September to 6 October 2011.
- The MLA newsletter was published as scheduled for April, August, and December.

The activity calendar for 2012 was approved as follows:

- Training on Koha ILS to be held from 3 to 5 June 2012
- Training on Greenstone Digital Library to be held from 6 to 7 June 2012
- Library Day Celebrations, 12 July 2012
- Bring a friend social event, 14 July 2012
- Workshop on publishing guidelines (date to be decided later)
- Workshop on collection evaluation (date to be decided later)
- Next MLA general meeting to be held on 17 December 2012.
- MLA newsletter to be published for the rest of the year – August & December

MLA Council Election

The following changes to the MLA constitution was proposed and approved at the meeting.

1) The "Adviser" post for the past two terms (Jan 2007 to Jan 2009 and Feb 2010 to May 2012) was held by the elected adviser Mrs Habeeba Hussain Habeeb (who since inception of MLA held the post of President); during the last term, the post has been treated more like a honorary post by agreement of the rest of the Council members. At the current annual general meeting it was proposed that this post be made a honorary post (without an election) and this be reflected on the constitution. This was proposed mainly to ensure that there would be at least one member common to the outgoing Council and the new Council, in order to ensure the continuity of work.

a) It was proposed that the current adviser (also a founding member of the Association) be permanently assigned "Adviser" post. Mrs Habeeba graciously requested that she be relieved of the post, and offered to provide her assistance as a founding member.

b) Taking the above into consideration, it was then proposed that the "Adviser" post be assigned as an honorary post to the outgoing President from each term for the new term. This was unanimously agreed by the members present.

2) It was also proposed that a transition period be set for the outgoing Council and the new Council to handover tasks for smooth transition. As such, a duration of not less than one month was approved to be assigned as the transition period. Thereby the current Council will continue until the end of June 2012, and the new Council will take Office on 1 July 2012.

The new MLA Council was elected as stipulated in the MLA Constitution, by popular vote by the members present at the meeting.



MLA Council Members 2012-2013

The Maldives Digital Library Project has been formally launched on July 12, 2012.

The "Maldives Digital Library" is an initiative to automate the physical library collections of the Maldives and to make it accessible online as much as possible; it also is an attempt to create digital library collections of local material to provide equitable access to the limited material by the dispersed Maldivian community. The work was initiated by the Maldives Library Association as the MLA Koha Pilot Project in 2011. The project was later taken up by the National Library with support from the Maldives Greenstone support Network, the Education Development Centre, and the National Centre for Information Technology (NCIT).

The Project was launched with 7 Digital Library Collections. Through this project, library automation has been setup at 21 libraries from throughout the Maldives.

Libraries added in 2011

- Jalaaludheen School, H.Dh. Kulhudhufushi
- Baa Atoll School, B. Dharavandhoo
- Lhaviyani Atoll Education Centre, Lh. Hinnavaru
- Maldives Polytechnic, Malé
- Aminiya School, Malé
- Maafushi School, K. Maafushi
- Dhaalu Atoll Education Centre, Dh. Kudahuvadhoo
- Hamadh bin Khalifa Al Thani School, L. Gan
- Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll Education Centre, G.Dh. Thinadhoo
- Gnaviyani Atoll Education Centre, Gn. Fuvah Mulah
- Muhibbuddin School, S. Hithadhoo

Libraries added in 2012

- Haa Alif Atoll Education Centre, HA. Dhidhdhoo
- Hulhudhuffaar School, R. Hulhudhuffaar
- Academy for the Dhivehi Language (Dhivehi Research Library), Malé
- Dharumavantha School, Malé
- Iskandhar School, Malé
- Villa College, Malé
- Muhyiddin School, Vilimalé
- Vilufushee School, Th. Vilufushee
- Gaafu Alif Atoll Education Centre, GA. Villingili
- Addu High School, S. Hithadhoo

Manual on installing Koha – Part 1

Introduction

Koha is the first free and open source software for library automation. It is easy to use, user friendly and has all the modules for automating a library; including acquisition, cataloging, circulation, serials management, and online public access catalog (OPAC). Using Koha, users can also generate reports, generate labels, create patron cards etc.

Today, many libraries have adapted Koha. Even though Koha OSS is free to download and use, many librarians faces difficulty in the installation of Koha. This manual will look in to the two ways to install Koha; installation using the LiveCD, and the manual installation.

Installing Koha – Method 1

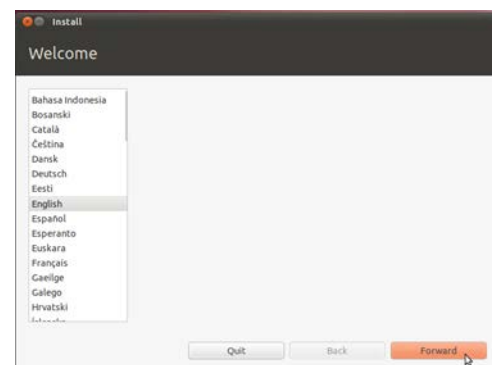
Live CD

This method of installation is preferable for the first time users of koha. While this method is easy to install and will allow you to run a small library, this method of installation and usage is recommended for practice only. It is better to do manual installation, explained in Method 2, if you have seriously considered using Koha.

To do the installation, follow the following steps.

1. Insert CD to the CPU and restart your computer
2. Depending on the setting of your computer, your computer may boot automatically from the CD. Otherwise press F8 to boot from CD
3. A new screen will be opened, giving you the following options to choose from
 - a. Live – boot the live system
 - b. Xforcevesa – boot live in safe graphics mode
 - c. Install – start the installer directly
 - d. Textonly – boot live in textonly mode
 - e. Debug – boot the Live system without splash and show bememtest – Run memtest
 - f. Hd – boot from first hard disk
4. Depending on your needs, choose your options. Since you want to install LiveCD, choose the option c. NOTE: You can also choose option a., from which you can test Koha without the actual installation.
5. When you choose option c., setup will start. The first step of the installation is to install Ubuntu, the Linux operating system.

6. First you will be asked to choose your language. Choose English, and click Forward



7. The next screen will be "preparing to install ubuntu". Here, the requirements needed to install Koha LiveCD will be shown. Leave the settings as it is by default, and click forward



8. In the next step, you will be asked to allocate the drive space. Three options will be given here;
 - a. Install alongside other operating systems
 - b. Erase and use the entire disk
 - c. Specify partitions manually (advanced) (sometimes, displays as 'Something else')

If you choose, option b., your Windows operating system (or any other operating system which you have previously installed) will be erased along with all your files. It is best to choose this option if you have a new PC, with no configuration and no previously installed operating system.

Option c. is recommended for IT professionals, for those who has the knowledge of partitioning without any problems.

For librarians, who does not have any, or has little IT background, it is best to choose Option a., where you can install Ubuntu alongside your previous operating system.

Therefore choose Option a., and click forward



8. As shown on the screenshot below, you will be asked to allocate drive space by dragging the divider. Minimum space needed for Ubuntu is 10 GB. Drag the divider until it shows 10 GB or more, and then click on Install now



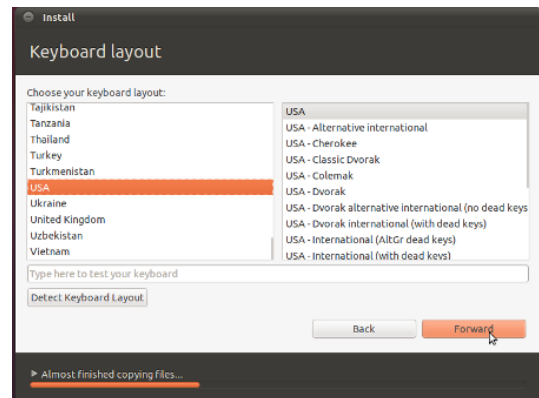
9. When you click Install Now, a new Pop-up screen will ask you whether you want to write previous changes to disk and continue. Here you can choose continue.



10. While Ubuntu prepares to copy the files, it will ask some questions. The first question will be to choose your location. You can choose your country, and click forward



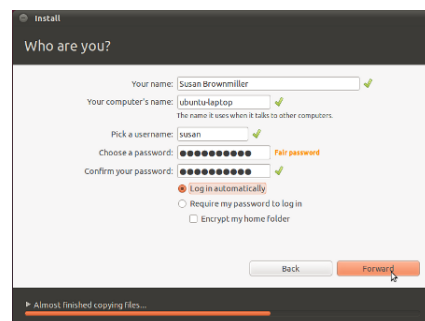
11. The next question will be to choose the keyboard layout. By default it is USA. Choose your layout and click forward



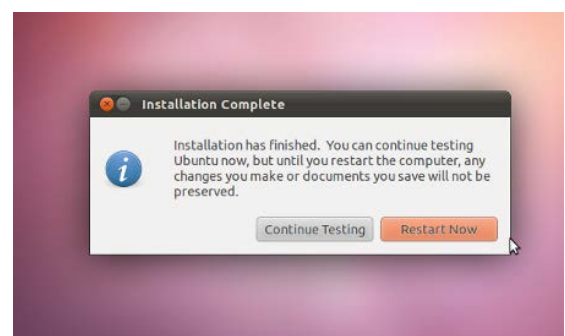
12. Next, you will be asked to fill your details such as

- Your name
- Your computers name
- Pick a username (this will be the username to login to your computer)
- Choose password (this will be the password needed to login to your computer)
- Confirm your password

You can click on 'Require my password to log in' or 'Log in automatically' based on your needs, and then click forward



13. Wait till installation is finished. Click restart and remove the CD while restarting



14. Now, after you login to Ubuntu, it is time to do the web installation of koha

ACLIS 2011 shines @ MNU Graduation 2012

The second batch of students from the library course offered at the Maldives National University on February 2011 was awarded their certificates at the MNU graduation ceremony held on March 20, 2012.

The eighteen students who graduated from the second batch of ACLIS are:

- Mr. Ahmed Nisham,
- Aishath Aliya Ibrahim,
- Aishath Sazleen,
- Aminath Mohamed,
- Aminath Shazina,
- Fathimath Azeema,
- Fathimath Rishma,
- Fazniya Ali,
- Hawwa Shiuna,
- Khadeeja Liusha,
- Khadeeja Mohamed,
- Nasreena,
- Nazula Saeed,
- Rugiyya Sajidha,
- Sahuma Mohamed,
- Siyama Abdul Razzag,
- Mariyam Mohamed,
- Naufath Zaki

The Library Units of ACLIS-2011 was taught by a team of lecturers from the Faculty of Arts and part-time staff from other institutions. They are as follows:

- Ms. Aishath Shabana
- Ms. Aminath Shiuna
- Mr. Amman Adam
- Ms. Athyya Shakeel
- Ms. Dilara Begum

The one-year ACLIS program was offered first in 2010, at the Faculty of Arts of the Maldives National University; and has now been extended to a Diploma program with a further year of study.



ACLIS 2011 students with MNU Library Staff at the Graduation Ceremony - March 2012

19. Open Firefox and type the URL [http://localhost:8080] and press enter. The web installer will be launched

The username and password for koha will be provided in a file called 'readme.r6.txt' in the desktop. In this case, the username is 'kohaadmin' and password is 'kohalivedcd'. Type and press Login

20. The first step of the web installer is to specify the language. Choose the language from the dropdown box and click next

21. Next Koha will check whether all the dependencies has been installed Click next
22. The next step will show the database settings
- Database type : mysql
 - Database name : koha
 - Database host : localhost
 - Database port : 3306
 - Database user : kohaadmin
- Click next

23. The next step will check all the settings, click next

24. In the next step, the database will be created, click next

25. On the next step, it will be shown whether the database creation has been successful or not. Click next

26. Now you can do some basic configuration. Click on 'install basic configuration settings' to continue installation

15. Next you will be asked to choose the Marc flavours;
- Unimarc
 - Marc21

Select option a. or b. depending on your needs and then click Next to continue

16. In the next step, you will be asked to select the default settings. Here some mandatory fields will be imported to your koha database. You can also import optional sample records, such as patrons, patron categories, item types to your library. Depending on your needs, you can choose the optional settings and click Import.

NOTE: If you are using Koha for the first time, it is recommended to import all the optional settings to your library.

17. The next step will ask you to choose the indexing engine. Choose Zebra, if you have a large catalogue, and NoZebra, if your catalogue is not big and click next

18. Click finish to complete and load the Koha Staff interface

Now you have successfully installed Koha LiveCD. You will have to login to koha staff interface again to use koha.

[To be continued in another issue...] ■

Bringing the National Library of Maldives Catalogue online: Liberty5@NLM

Liberty


Completing the e-accession register



During stock audit



The National Library of Maldives opened its doors on the 2nd of January 2012 at 10:00 am after being temporarily closed for one month from 1st December 2011. The library was closed to complete a stock audit of the library items using the current library management system Liberty5 (from Softlink, Australia) as a pre-task to bring the library catalogue online.

The government's strategic action plan mandates the National Library to provide quality informational services to the general public. Access to an online catalog was a big step taken in this way.

The whole process involved a lot of planning. A liberty committee was setup. Work started early September 2011 when the manual accession register data entry was started to create an e-accession register. This was followed by setting up the English section as the location for stock audit. Tasks for each day were designated. Five groups were selected with four persons each. Each person was targeted to audit 84 items per day.

Public media was alerted about the temporary closing of the National Library, Library users who have borrowed books before this period could return books at the Children's Multimedia Library when the library was closed.

As closing the library for a period of one month is a rare case, the committee decided to maximize and use this time efficiently. As such training programs were incorporated into the auditing so that staff will be refreshed and gain new skills.

The following collections were audited:

- ◎ English Fiction
- ◎ English Collection
- ◎ English National Collection
- ◎ Dhivehi Vaahaka (Dhivehi fiction)
- ◎ SAARC Documentation Centre Journals
- ◎ Statistics Corner
- ◎ Islamic Corner
- ◎ Past papers
- ◎ Staff Reference

In addition all membership data was audited and updated. A total of 30,000 items were audited. The children's multimedia library collection is the next targeted collection for the stock audit.

The stock audit program was a huge success as all the above collections were audited as planned. The next step was bringing the liberty software online. This involved a great input from the National Center of Information Technology team. The National Library applauds the professionalism shown.

When the library was reopened, a new color theme was set up for each collection audited. A facebook group titled "National Library of Maldives" has also been created to get customer feedback for the library in addition to the library hotline 9

All staff of the National Library welcomes you to check out the Liberty5@NLM catalogue online. <http://nlmopac.library.egov.mv/liberty> ■

~ Fathimath Shiham ~



Stock audit team on the last day of the project.



Study tour in Sri Lankan Libraries by DLIS students, Faculty of Arts, the Maldives National University

Report

The tour was arranged by the Diploma of Library and Information Services students from Faculty of Arts with the help of their lecturer. It was the first study tour of library science students at Maldives National University. A total seven students and two lecturers participated in the tour from June 10 to 17, 2012.

During the seven-day trip, participants visited total twelve Institutions including National library, special libraries, public library, media library and the Parliament library.

They are:-

1st day (11th June 2012)

- Royal college library
- Public library
- National Archive

2nd day (12th June 2012)

- Institute for policy studies library
- National TV station library
- Sri Lanka Library Association

3rd day (13th June 2012)

- American Centre
- Parliament library

4th day (14th June 2012)

- National library
- National Museum

5th day (15th June 2012)

- Industrial Technology Institute library
- Central bank library

Not only enhancing our knowledge in LIS, but we also had precious opportunities to meet professors and professional librarians in different libraries. A meeting was held at

the Sri Lanka Library Association on the second day of the trip and it was a great opportunity for the participants to exchange their ideas and academic views with the experts in the library field.

Apart from academic visits participants visited Kandy on the 6th day and walked around some famous spots such as Elephant Park in Kandy, new elephant spice & herbal garden and the Temple of Tooth Relic. The experiences throughout the precious tour would surely benefit to make a better future for the LIS profession in Maldives.

The students who participated in the tour are:

- Mr. Azhar Abdulla Saeed
- Ms. Riyaza Mohamed
- Ms. Samiya Mohamed
- Ms. Fathimath Nashfa
- Ms. Rugiyya Sajidha
- Ms. Aminath Shazina
- Ms. Fathimath Visala

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep and sincere gratitude to the Vice President of the Maldives **Mr. Waheed Deen, The Maldives Library Association, Sri Lankan Airline, and the Villa Travels**. This tour would not have been possible without their financial support.

The Maldives Library Association played a significant role in understanding the purpose of the tour and ensuring that the visits would be an enriching experience for the students. Hence we owe our most sincere gratitude to the Association.



We are deeply grateful to our beloved lecturer **Mrs. Deepali Talagala** for her valuable advice, kind support and guidance which have been of great value throughout the tour. We can't say thank you enough for her wonderful support and help. Without her encouragement this tour would not have happened.

A special word of appreciation to Mrs. Aminath Riyaz who joined the tour for 3 days as a personal visit. Her extensive discussions have been very helpful for the tour and the kind support have been of great value.

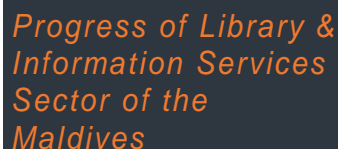
I would like to thank Mr. Abdul Rasheed Ali, Dean of Faculty of Arts, for his valuable advice.

A special thanks to Mr. Amaraweera for his kind support during the tour.

I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to all the heads & staff of the libraries and other departments in Sri Lanka. They were friendly, open and willing to share information. Participants of the tour received a very generous and sincere welcome. ■

~ Aminath Shazina ~





The book is available at the
Maldives Library Association:
MVR 150 for individual members
and MVR 200 for others.

meet.learn.acquire

The next issue of this newsletter will be coming out in December 2012. Send us your news, feedback/comments, articles relevant to the library association, libraries, and information gathering & dissemination activities in the Maldives.

Volume 9 Issue 01/02 August 2012



Maldives Library Association
meet.learn.acquire

Maldives Library Association
National Library
Malé, Maldives
Blog: <http://infomalias.wordpress.com>
E-mail: info.malias@gmail.com
Phone: 7765181 (Editor)

2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2490-2491-2492-2493-2494-2495-2496-2497-2498-2499-2500-2501-2502-2503-2504-2505-2506-2507-2508-2509-2510-2511-2512-2513-2514-2515-2516-2517-2518-2519-2520-2521-2522-2523-2524-2525-2526-2527-2528-2529-2530-2531-2532-2533-2534-2535-2536-2537-2538-2539-2540-2541-2542-2543-2544-2545-2546-2547-2548-2549-2550-2551-2552-2553-2554-2555-2556-2557-2558-2559-2560-2561-2562-2563-2564-2565-2566-2567-2568-2569-2570-2571-2572-2573-2574-2575-2576-2577-2578-2579-2580-2581-2582-2583-2584-2585-2586-2587-2588-2589-2590-2591-2592-2593-2594-2595-2596-2597-2598-2599-2600-2601-2602-2603-2604-2605-2606-2607-2608-2609-2610-2611-2612-2613-2614-2615-2616-2617-2618-2619-2620-2621-2622-2623-2624-2625-2626-2627-2628-2629-2630-2631-2632-2633-2634-2635-2636-2637-2638-2639-2640-2641-2642-2643-2644-2645-2646-2647-2648-2649-2650-2651-2652-2653-2654-2655-2656-2657-2658-2659-2660-2661-2662-2663-2664-2665-2666-2667-2668-2669-2670-2671-2672-2673-2674-2675-2676-2677-2678-2679-2680-2681-2682-2683-2684-2685-2686-2687-2688-2689-2690-2691-2692-2693-2694-2695-2696-2697-2698-2699-2700-2701-2702-2703-2704-2705-2706-2707-2708-2709-2710-2711-2712-2713-2714-2715-2716-2717-2718-2719-2720-2721-2722-2723-2724-2725-2726-2727-2728-2729-2730-2731-2732-2733-2734-2735-2736-2737-2738-2739-2740-2741-2742-2743-2744-2745-2746-2747-2748-2749-2750-2751-2752-2753-2754-2755-2756-2757-2758-2759-2760-2761-2762-2763-2764-2765-2766-2767-2768-2769-2770-2771-2772-2773-2774-2775-2776-2777-2778-2779-2780-2781-2782-2783-2784-2785-2786-2787-2788-2789-2790-2791-2792-2793-2794-2795-2796-2797-2798-2799-2800-2801-2802-2803-2804-2805-2806-2807-2808-2809-2810-2811-2812-2813-2814-2815-2816-2817-2818-2819-2820-2821-2822-2823-2824-2825-2826-2827-2828-2829-2